

II. Remarks

Claims 1-8 have been cancelled and new claims 9 and 10 have been added, without introduction of new matter. Because all previous pending claims have been cancelled, the rejections made in the last Office Action are now believed to be moot. New claims 9 and 10 are directed to an embodiment not previously claimed and which is shown in Figure 12. This particular embodiment of applicant's invention is characterized in that the carriage has at least two engaging mechanisms. A first mechanism that comprises a jib and hook connected to a set of hydraulic cylinders that allow the jib and hook to rotate about a pivot point when engaging a container or other structure. The second engaging mechanism attached to the carriage comprises a combination of a cable sheave and cable. Each of the two engaging mechanisms is capable of releasably engaging a container or other structure.

Applicant's invention solves a major problem that is common with all prior existing systems for loading and unloading containers, which is that they each contain only one type of mechanism to pick-up a specific type of container. For example, in the case of the hook lift it can only pick up containers designed specifically to accept the hook and likewise, the cable winch system can only pick up containers designed for cable based systems. Thus, companies must at a minimum maintain and operate two types of vehicles, those with hook lifts and those with cable winches. Applicant's invention, as defined in new claims 9 and 10, solves this problem by providing a universal type of loading and unloading system that can load, transport, and unload all types of containers, including, but not limited to those containers specifically designed for conventional cable hoists or hook lifts. In other words, the embodiment claimed in new claims 9 and 10 has both a hook and jib and a cable sheave that can be used interchangeably depending on the many various designs of containers or other structures that require loading,

transportation and unloading. Applicant's invention provides an improved system for loading and unloading containers and/or structures regardless of the design of container and/or structure, more specifically whether or not a container is designed as a hook lift or cable winch container. This allows an operator of the vehicle to service any type of container/structure without mechanical modification of the system prior to servicing the particular container/structure design.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references cited to date, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest a carriage having at least two engaging mechanisms. As such, Applicant believes this case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early indication of same. If for any reason the application is not in condition for allowance and a telephonic conference would be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned directly at 312/913-2143.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

7/24/06

By: _____



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